

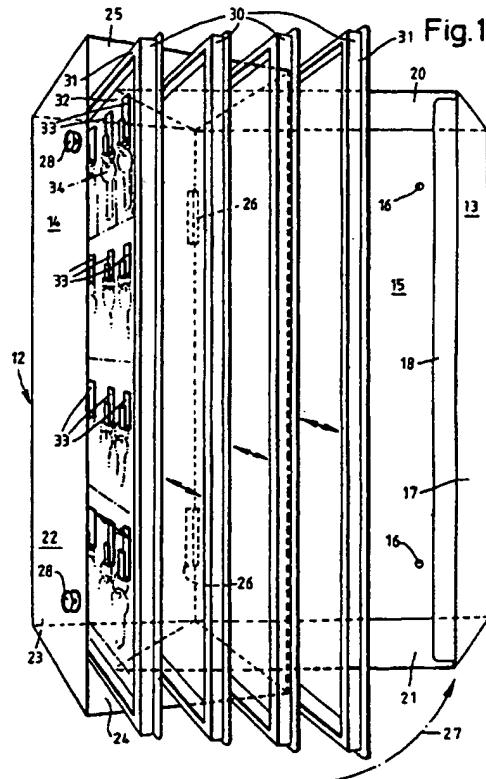
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## (54) Security cabinet for keys

(57) A security cabinet 12 for keys comprising a secure container which can be locked in a closed position and a plurality of substantially vertical plate-like members 30, each adapted to be slidably mounted within the container. The plate-like members 30 include support members 33, preferably hooks, for supporting keys. The container may comprise two parts and have a variety of embodiments. One such embodiment comprises a first part 13 having a back panel 15, securable to an upright wall, and a side panel 17, and a second moveable part 14 having an opposite side panel 23, a front panel 22 and top and bottom panels 25,24. The two parts are hinged substantially along adjacent edges of the back panel and the opposite side panel. The plate-like members 30 are mounted, preferably on tracks, between the top and bottom panels. In further embodiments both parts, or one or other of the parts only, may have top and bottom panels. The plate-like member may have a thick rim with a recessed front surface. Colour coded keys, marker pens and identification tags may also be supplied.

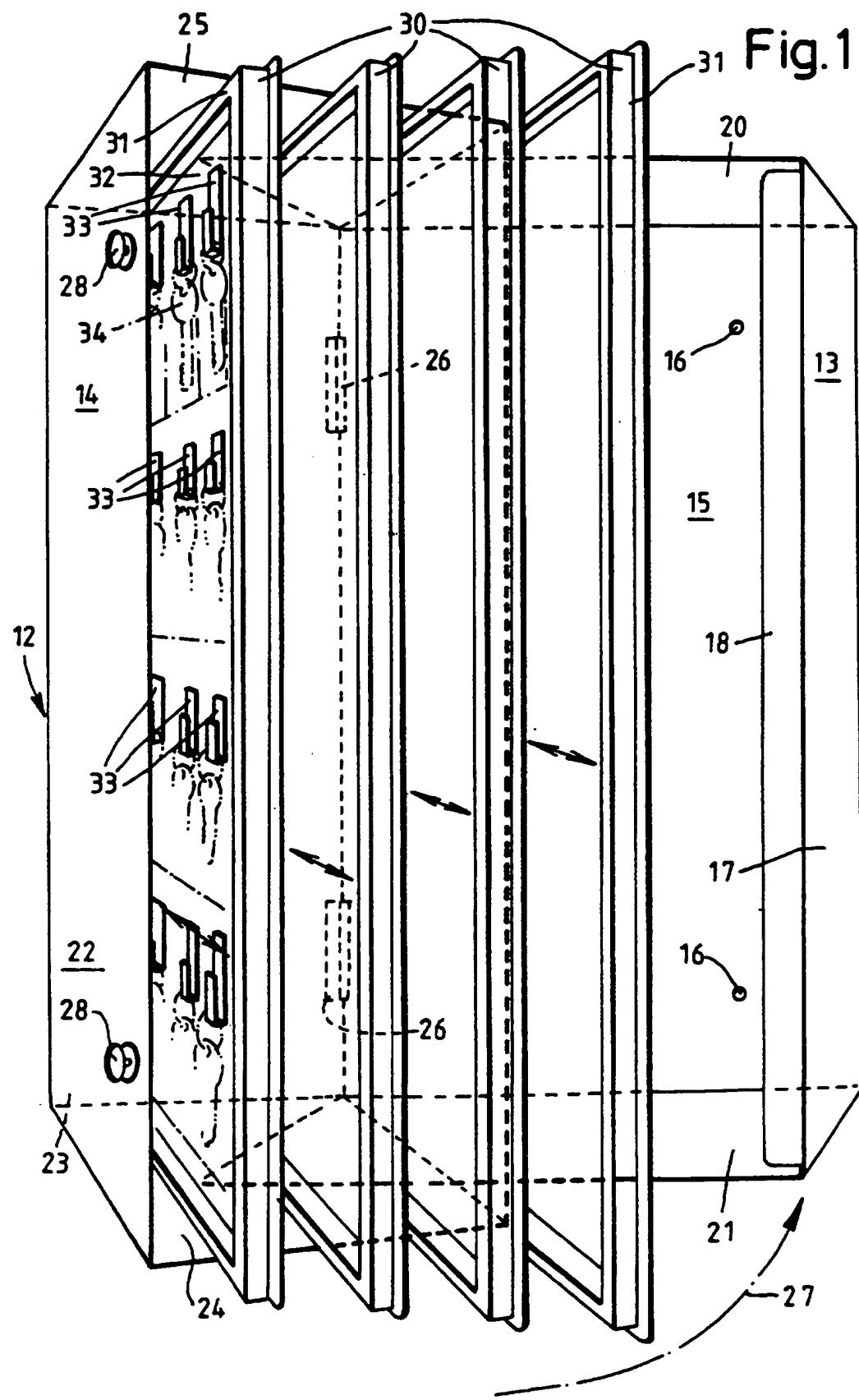


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At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

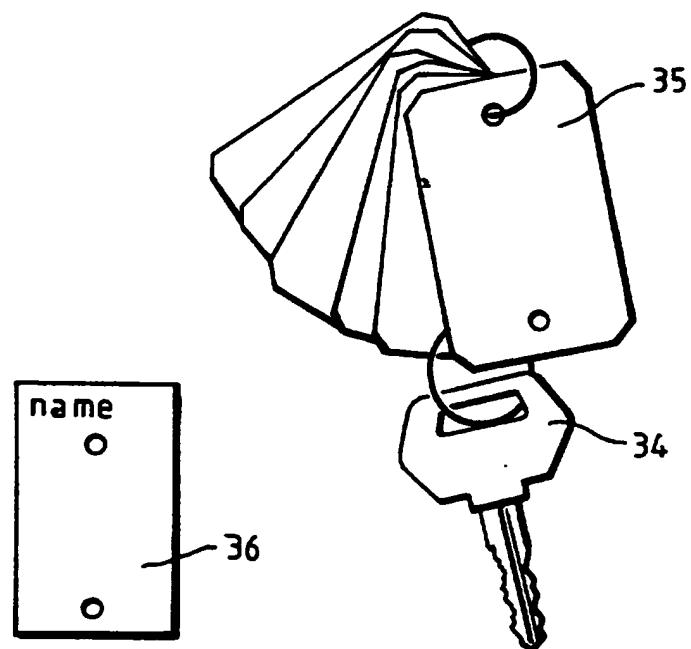
The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995

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Fig. 2



**Security Cabinet**

This invention relates to a security cabinet for keys and to a method of controlling access to and keeping track of keys.

Conventionally if keys are kept safe or under supervision they are hung on hooks fixed in a cabinet and if it is required to remove them either to a safe overnight or to another place where they are accessible for distribution to users during the day, each key must be handled separately to move it.

An object of the present invention is to improve the ease of storing and handling keys and preferably help to keep track of who is responsible for the keys when they are not under immediate supervision.

In one aspect the invention provides a security cabinet for keys comprising a secure container which can be locked in a closed condition or opened when unlocked and a plurality of plate-like carrying members, each adapted to

be mounted within the container in a substantially vertical disposition and to be slid into and out of the container in that disposition when the container is opened, each of the carrying members including a plurality of support members (preferably hooks arranged in rows) each for supporting a key.

Preferably the container is substantially rectangular in section and comprises two parts. A first part having a back panel adapted to be secured to an upright wall and a side panel, a second movable part comprising a front panel, an opposite side panel and top and bottom panels, the parts being hinged together substantially along adjacent edges of the back panel and the opposite side panel, and the plate like members being mounted between the top and bottom panels of the second part. Preferably the first part additionally has top and bottom panels so that in the closed position of the container the top and bottom of the container are effectively of double panel thickness.

In an alternative construction the second part could be mounted on the wall and the first part pivotable.

When the second part is swung out of the first part into the open position each of the carrying members can be slid independently of the other into or out of the second part.

This arrangement allows a very narrow width profiled cabinet with access to a plurality of different carrying members on each of which a plurality of keys can be supported and transported, either to a safe or to a workplace where the keys can be handed under supervision to appropriate users.

Each carrying member preferably has a relatively thick rim and a recessed front surface in which the support members for the keys are located. Each carrying member is preferably slidable in opposite tracks fixed in the top and bottom panels.

Preferably the secure cabinet is provided in combination with a set of key tags, each for identification of a particular key and each adapted to be marked with details relating to the key. A special marker pen may be included. Preferably the key tags and carrying members are each colour coded so that all key tags with a particular colour will be supported on a carrying member of the same colour.

Preferably additional and different identification tags are provided each to identify a person who may be given a key.

The invention extends to a system of controlling access to and or keeping track of the whereabouts of keys,

in which the keys, each identified by a key tag, are located securely in the cabinet when not required or if potentially required are supported on an appropriate carrying member under supervision, but when a key is required for use it is given only to an authorised person who in exchange gives an identity tag which is then placed in the position of the key on the appropriate carrying member.

One embodiment of security cabinet and associated tags will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:-

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a cabinet in an open condition, with carrying members partially slid out, and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of key tags and an identity tag.

A security cabinet 12 for keys is of substantially rectangular section when closed and is preferably made from steel plate. The cabinet comprises a first fixed part 13 and a second movable part 14. The first part comprises a back panel 15 adapted to be secured to an upright wall by fixing holes and screws, indicated at 16, a side panel 17 having a front inturned edge 18, a top panel 20 and a bottom panel 21. The second part 14 comprises a front panel 22, an opposite side panel 23, a bottom panel 24 and

a top panel 25. The second part is hinged, as indicated at 26, about a vertical axis substantially along adjacent edges of the back panel 15 and the opposite side panel 23. The parts can be swung together as indicated by the arrow 27 so that they form a closed secure cabinet which can be locked in the closed condition by locks indicated at 28 which can engage with or behind the inturned edge 18.

Four plate like carrying members 30 are supported in an upright disposition in the second part 14, each located in opposite runners (not seen) respectively in the top and bottom panels 24,25 and each being horizontally slidable into and out of the second part in the open condition of the cabinet as shown.

Each carrying member 30 is moulded with a rim 31 and has a recessed front 32 in which are located twenty four hooks 33 arranged in four rows of six hooks. Each hook is adapted to support a key 34 and key tag. Each of the carrying members has a particular colour code different from the colour of each other carrying member.

In the example given the carrying members have overall dimensions of height 555mm, width 340mm and depth 30mm and are contained in a cabinet having outer dimensions of height 580mm, width 355mm and depth 212mm. It will be appreciated that the sizes and number of trays per cabinet are given only by way of example.

The cabinet is preferably provided in combination with a plurality of key tags 35 and a plurality of identity tags 36. Each tag may for example be made of polypropylene and adapted to be written on with a marker pen so that details for example of a car to which the key relates can be marked on the key tag. The key tags are preferably colour coded with the same colours as the carrying members. The colour coding of the carrying members and key tags can be used for a variety of purposes to suit individual needs, such as identifying keys for a particular area of use or those which are restricted as to issue to various management levels.

The identity tags are intended to be marked with the names or other identifications of personnel who may handle the keys. They may be colour coded in the same way to identify which keys that person is authorised to handle. In use a key will not be handed to any person unless he can hand over his identity tag which is then placed in the place of the key which is given to him, allowing the management to identify who is responsible for the key when it is not on the appropriate carrying member.

CLAIMS

1. A security cabinet for keys comprising a secure container which can be locked in a closed condition or opened when unlocked and a plurality of plate-like carrying members, each adapted to be mounted within the container in a substantially vertical disposition and to be slid into and out of the container in that disposition when the container is opened, each of the carrying members including a plurality of support members each for supporting a key.
2. A security cabinet according to claim 1 wherein the support members are hooks.
3. A security cabinet according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the support members are arranged in rows.
4. A security cabinet according to any preceding claim wherein the container is substantially rectangular in section.
5. A security cabinet according to any preceding claim wherein the container comprises two parts, being a first part having a back panel adapted to be secured to an upright wall and a side panel, and a second movable part comprising a front panel, an opposite

side panel and top and bottom panels, the parts being hinged together substantially along adjacent edges of the back panel and the opposite side panel, and the plate like members being mounted between the top and bottom panels of the second part.

6. A security cabinet according to any preceding claim wherein the first part additionally has top and bottom panels so that in the closed position of the container the top and bottom of the container are of double panel thickness.
7. A security cabinet according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the container comprises two parts, being a first part having a back panel adapted to be secured to an upright wall a side panel and top and bottom panels, and a second movable part comprising a front panel and an opposite side panel , the parts being hinged together substantially along adjacent edges of the back panel and the opposite side panel, and the plate like members being mounted between the top and bottom panels of the second part.
8. A security cabinet according to any preceding claim wherein each carrying member has a relatively thick rim and a recessed front surface in which the support members for the keys are located.

9. A security cabinet according to any preceding claim wherein each carrying member is slidable in opposite tracks fixed in the top and bottom panels.
10. A security cabinet according to any preceding claim provided in combination with a set of key tags, each for identification of a particular key and each adapted to be marked with details relating to the key.
11. A security cabinet according to claim 10 in combination with a marker pen.
12. A security cabinet according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the key tags and carrying members are each colour coded so that all key tags with a particular colour will be supported on a carrying member of the same colour.
13. A security cabinet substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
14. A system of controlling access to and or keeping track of the whereabouts of keys, in which the keys are each identified by a key tag and are located securely in a cabinet according to any preceding claim when not required or if potentially required are supported on an appropriate carrying member under supervision, but when a key is required for use it is given only to an

authorised person previously in possession of an identity tag who in exchange gives up that identity tag which is then placed in the position of the key on the appropriate carrying member.

15. A key access control system substantially as herein described.



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Patent  
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Application No: GB 9518916.3  
Claims searched: 1-15

Examiner: David Glover  
Date of search: 12 November 1996

**Patents Act 1977**  
**Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.O): E2X

Int Cl (Ed.6): E05G

Other: Online: WPI

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
	None	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
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